

Ezekiel 27:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea?

Analysis

And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee—The Hebrew קִנָּה (nāsā' qînāh, 'lift up a lament/dirge') refers to formal funeral songs. וְקִוְתְּנוּ עַלְּךָ (wēqônēnū 'ālayik, 'and they shall lament over you') uses the verb קָוַן (qûn), meaning ritualized mourning.

This introduces the actual funeral dirge for Tyre (verses 32b-36), one of several in Ezekiel (19:1-14, 26:17-18, 27:32-36, 28:12-19, 32:2-16). The form mimics actual ancient funeral laments, with rhetorical questions, past glory recalled, and present devastation mourned. Biblical lament literature (Lamentations, select Psalms) serves theological purposes: acknowledging God's justice, confessing sin, and ultimately hoping in restoration. But Tyre's lament ends without hope—only permanent desolation.

Historical Context

Ancient funeral dirges followed set patterns: invoking the deceased, recalling past glory, describing present ruin, and sometimes ending with hope. Professional mourners were hired for important deaths (Jeremiah 9:17-18). Ezekiel, as a priest, would have been familiar with liturgical lament forms and adapts them for prophetic purposes, showing God's judgment on nations follows similar patterns to human death.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do biblical laments help believers process grief while maintaining faith in God?
2. What is significant about Tyre's lament ending without hope of restoration?
3. How should we 'lament' when God's judgment falls on proud systems or nations?

Interlinear Text

they shall take up	H5375	אָל יְמִינָם	בְּנִים	לְקַנְתָּךְ וְלִנְשָׁא	1
	H413		H5204	a lamentation	for thee and lament
				H7015	H6969
H5921	H4310	מִן יְמִינָךְ	כִּזְבָּר	בַּת וְרַ	כִּדְמָה הַ
		over thee saying	What city is like Tyrus	like the destroyed	in the midst
			H6865	H1822	H8432
of the sea	H3220				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 26:17 (Parallel theme): And they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and say to thee, How art thou destroyed, that wast inhabited of seafaring men, the renowned city, which wast strong in the sea, she and her inhabitants, which cause their terror to be on all that haunt it!

Revelation 18:18 (Parallel theme): And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city!

Ezekiel 27:2 (Parallel theme): Now, thou son of man, take up a lamentation for Tyrus;